

PATENT
Docket No.325772009100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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AUG 04 2004

In the application of: Kenji MASAKI

Serial No.: 09/287,530

Filing Date: April 7, 1999

For: DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS

Examiner: B. Choobin

Group Art Unit: 2625

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#27/letter
mail
8/17/04COMMUNICATION REGARDING APPEALCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

On April 20, 2004, applicant filed a response to the final Office Action of February 6, 2004. As of this date, the Examiner has yet to act on this response formally. In response to a telephone inquiry the Examiner advised a member of the office of the undersigned attorney that he had taken the application up and was issuing a further, non-final Action.

The final deadline for filing a Notice of Appeal in this application is August 6, 2004. In reliance upon the Examiner's express representation that he is withdrawing the finality of the pending Action and is issuing a further, non-final Action, applicants have decided to await the issuance of the new Action and not to waste the three-month Extension of Time fee and Notice of Appeal fee that would otherwise be required to keep this application pending. Since applicants fully responded to the pending Action in a manner that has obviated the rejections of record, applicants believe this action is justified.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge

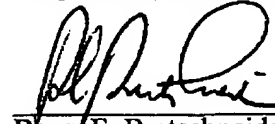
va-74828

the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to
Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. **325772009100**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 3, 2004

By:



Barry E. Bretschneider
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FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE: August 3, 2004

PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 09/287,530
Patent Number

Inventor: Kenji MASAKI

MESSAGE TO: US Patent and Trademark Office

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PAGES (Including Cover Sheet): 3

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